

Serial Number 10/540,778

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A filter retrieval system for retrieving a previously implanted medical filter, comprising:

a flexible shaft defining a longitudinal axis having a proximal and a distal end; the shaft having an opening positioned a distance from the shaft distal end; the shaft defining first and second internal spaces positioned proximally and distally of the opening;

a handle affixed to the shaft near the shaft proximal end;

an actuator coupled with the handle;

a retrieval element coupled with the actuator; the retrieval element being longitudinally movable among a range of positions, including the position of the shaft opening and the positions of the first and second internal spaces;

such that moving the actuator to a desired position causes the retrieval element to move to a corresponding position;

such that when the retrieval element is in an initial position, the retrieval element is located within one of the first and second internal spaces;

such that when the actuator is moved to a ready position, the retrieval element protrudes from the shaft opening;

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such that the retrieval element can be maneuvered to engage a portion of a filter, and then the actuator can be moved to a first or second capture position which pulls the filter through the opening into a selected one of the first and second internal spaces.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Original) The filter retrieval system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a distal portion of the shaft has a pre-selected shape.

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended) A filter retrieval system for retrieving a previously implanted medical filter, comprising:

a flexible shaft defining a longitudinal axis having a proximal and a distal end; the shaft having an opening positioned a distance from the shaft distal end; the shaft defining a first and second internal space spaces positioned proximally and distally of the opening;

a handle affixed to the shaft near the shaft proximal end;

an actuator coupled with the handle;

a main wire loop coupled with the actuator, and having a snare; the snare being longitudinally movable among a range of positions, including the position of the shaft opening and the positions of the proximal and distal internal spaces;

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such that moving the actuator to a desired position causes the main wire loop to move the snare to a corresponding position;

such that when the snare is in an initial position, the snare is located within one of the first and second internal spaces;

such that when the actuator is moved to a ready position, the snare protrudes from the shaft opening;

such that the snare can be maneuvered to engage a portion of a filter, and then the actuator can be moved to a first or second capture position which pulls the filter through the opening into a selected one of the first and second internal spaces.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) A filter retrieval system for retrieving a previously implanted medical filter, comprising:

a flexible shaft defining a longitudinal axis having a proximal and a distal end; the shaft having an opening positioned a distance from the shaft distal end; the shaft defining a first and second internal space spaces positioned proximally and distally of the opening;

a handle affixed to the shaft near the shaft proximal end;

an actuator coupled with the handle;

a main wire loop coupled with the actuator, and having a snare; the snare being longitudinally movable among a range of positions, including the position of the shaft opening and the positions of the proximal and distal internal spaces;

a guide affixed to the shaft at a guide position distal of the opening, the main wire loop extending at least to said guide position;

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such that moving the actuator to a desired position causes the main wire loop to move the snare to a corresponding position;

such that when the snare is in an initial position, the snare is located within one of the first and second internal spaces;

such that when the actuator is moved to a ready position, the snare protrudes from the shaft opening;

such that the snare can be maneuvered to engage a portion of a filter, and then the actuator can be moved to a first or second capture position which pulls the filter through the opening into a selected one of the first and second internal spaces.

Claim 8 (New) The filter retrieval system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the catheter shaft is sufficiently flexible to follow a curved vascular path and retrieve a filter placed in the inferior vena cava.

Claim 9 (New) The filter retrieval system in accordance with Claim 7, wherein a portion of the main wire loop is distal of the snare.

Claim 10 (New) The filter retrieval system in accordance with Claim 9, the shaft further comprising a guide in an internal space distal of the opening.